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Some of these papers may appear in the Transactions of the American Philological Association for 1918; of the others abstracts will be given there.

The retiring President, Professor Gilbert Chinard, of the University of California, delivered an address bearing the title *Literature and International Misinterpretations*. Under a witty manner Professor Chinard presented some serious thoughts touching the danger of judging the spirit of a nation solely through its intellectual manifestations in literature.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, H. C. Nutting, of the University of California; Vice-Presidents, J. S. P. Tatlock and W. A. Cooper, of the Leland Stanford Junior University; Secretary, S. G. Morley, and Treasurer, George M. Calhoun, both of the University of California; Executive Committee (besides the above), C. G. Allen, B. O. Foster, Kelley Rees, and H. G. Shearin.

H. C. NUTTING.

### COLLEGE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE CLASSICS

Professor R. C. Flickinger, of Northwestern University, calls my attention to a matter which may be of interest, and mayhap of importance, to supporters of the Classics in Collegiate circles.

The announcement of the College of Liberal Arts, Northwestern University, lays down fifteen units of credit as necessary for admission to the College, as follows:

A. At least three units of English, one unit of Algebra, and one unit of Plane Geometry.

B. Foreign languages — Latin, Greek, French, German—at least three units of one of these languages or two units of each of two of them.

C. Other subjects sufficient to make, with the above, an aggregate of fifteen units. . . .

After a few explanatory details, the following paragraph appears:

Although the University permits great latitude in the presentation of subjects for admission, all studies are not regarded as equally beneficial. The subjects in Group A are essential to success in college courses, and experience has shown that students who attain high standing in college present for admission a liberal amount of credit in the studies under Group B, especially Latin. To fulfill the specific requirements of the college curriculum most quickly and thus to enjoy a greater range of elective work, the student should aim to secure in high school an excess of credit in foreign languages rather than the minimum requirement. It is in general advisable to present for credit only such subjects as are named in the Definitions of Units below.

With respect to all this, Professor Flickinger writes as follows:

Here we still require Latin or Greek for graduation on the A. B. programme, but this paragraph would tend to increase the number of freshmen who are in a position to continue their Latin into College. It is true that comparatively few High School students and only a few of their teachers read these provisions in the various College catalogues; yet such a statement does exercise a considerable influence. It would be especially effective in the catalogue of institutions which no longer

require Latin or Greek for graduation and it could no doubt be inserted in many cases upon the initiative of the local classical professors. For the classical requirement has often been dropped for the reason that students with four years of Latin, though ideally desirable, can no longer be obtained in sufficient numbers. Many faculty members who favored the change for this reason would be willing to vote for a statement in the catalogue which would increase students of this type without frightening away others. c. k.

### THE DIAL AND THE CLASSICS

In *The Dial* for November 2 last (65.369) appeared an editorial which is of particular interest to classicists, in view of the general attitude of the *Dial* to contemporary questions, and in view more especially of the fact that the Editor-in-Chief of the *Dial* is Professor John Dewey, of Columbia University. The editorial ran as follows:

Preservation of the study of Latin has recently been advocated with great force by M. A. Meillet, a professor at the Collège de France. This distinguished philologist sees in the linguistic diversity of modern Europe one of the strongest forces making for Continental disunity. The war will in all likelihood intensify rather than lessen the movement for the adoption of separate languages by small nationalities—a movement which has been going on for over a half-century with accelerating speed and intensity. If the unity of European civilization is to be maintained unbroken, some common bond must be discovered or revived. It is disconcertingly true that, however sympathetic we may be to this linguistic decentralizing movement on political grounds, culturally speaking the ideas expressed in these new literatures are for the most part the common stock of modern thought. M. Meillet is probably correct in thinking that for cultural purposes the old and widespread languages are sufficient. Consequently the adoption of a new language by a small people is as likely to erect barriers between that people and the outside world as to enrich its own particular heritage. To counteract this centrifugal tendency M. Meillet suggests that the study of Latin should be maintained. A knowledge of Latin shows the relationship of the Romance languages to each other and of the Romance languages as a whole to English and German. But primarily a knowledge of Latin enables one to discern those ideas which are the common heritage of European civilizations as a whole. Just why M. Meillet should have chosen Latin for this purpose of linguistic unification may seem somewhat arbitrary to those who are ever keeping their axes sharp against the classicists. Yet somehow the ancient humanism, divorced from the immediacies of scientific discovery and experiment, seems today in the crowded hatred of strife a more healing and gracious doctrine than it did in the first days of July 1914, when the concepts of creative practicality were regarded as the surest instruments for the establishment of the social millennium. c. k.

### AN ANCIENT SERVICE FLAG

The naval service flag of blue is no recent innovation. Suetonius, Aug. 25, relates the following of that Emperor: M. Agrippam in Sicilia post navalem victoriam *caeruleo vexillo* donavit.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

H. C. NUTTING.